



## NEWS RELEASE

CITY OF SANTA BARBARA  
Public Works Department  
Water Resources Division

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### ***May digs in with sustainable options***

#### ***Water savings shine in demonstration gardens and landscaping rebates***

**SANTA BARBARA, CA – MAY 17, 2011** -- May blooms with sustainability, given the springtime look of water-wise demonstration gardens and the advent of the Spring planting season providing homeowners with a fresh opportunity to replace thirsty plants and grass with water-wise plants and lawn alternatives.

To see sustainability at work, residents can visit a water-wise demonstration garden in Santa Barbara. They include:

**Alice Keck Park Memorial Garden:** City block bounded by Santa Barbara, Arrellaga, Garden and Micheltorena streets in Santa Barbara. A 4.6-acre informal park emphasizing exotic flora.

**Firescape Garden:** 2411 Stanwood Drive/Route 192 (corner of Mission Ridge Road) in Santa Barbara, across the street from Fire Station No. 7. This 1.7-acre labeled, model garden demonstrates how risks of wildfire can be reduced.

**Santa Barbara City College:** Lifescape Garden/Chumash Point Ethnobotanic Preserve, 721 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara. 965-0581. The Lifescape Garden features a variety of low-water-using and edible plants, as well as composting systems and efficient irrigation.

**Santa Barbara Botanic Garden:** 12212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara. 682-4726. A 65-acre garden of native plants of California, representing a variety of plant communities and important botanical and horticultural collections.

City's latest episode of *Inside Santa Barbara* now airing on Channel 18 has a segment on water wise demonstration gardens which can also be viewed online at [www.citytv18.com](http://www.citytv18.com).

If you would rather have a virtual demonstration garden tour, check out "Water Wise Gardening in Santa Barbara County", at [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org) which has photos of hundreds of plants that use little water, as well as twenty six water wise garden "tours" including some of the local demonstration gardens.

To help pay to make your garden more water-wise, the Smart Landscape Rebate program covers half the expense of materials. The City of Santa Barbara and Goleta Water District offer up to \$1,000 for single-family homes and up to \$4,000 for businesses and Homeowner Associations. The qualifications vary by participating area, but all apply only to existing landscapes and must result in a net water savings. Water providers' rebates cover 50 percent of pre-approved improvements to irrigation systems as well as water-wise plants and mulch, and the rebate must be preapproved before work is started. To get started for City customers, call (805) 564-5460 or go to [www.sbwater.org](http://www.sbwater.org).

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